

The Middlebury Register.

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MIDDLEBURY, VT., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1854.

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THE MIDDLEBURY REGISTER.
OFFICE IN BARRETT'S BLOCK ON MAIN-ST.

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Publishers and Proprietors.

TERMS.

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Poetry.

For the Register.
Middlebury, May 27, 1854.

Mr. Editor:
The following lines, not devoid of merit, were handed me by a friend from Massachusetts. If you think it to insert them in the Register, you will there by gratify several—and extend the circulation of at least the distribution of your paper still a little more.

Respectfully yours, M.

To a Gold Fish.

Say, beautiful one, of the golden fin,
Dost love in the crystal drops to swim?
Dost love thy glassy watery zone?
Dost thou love home so happy, dear and free,
Or is it a gilded cage to thee?

When wheeling in circles roundly round,
You downward plunge, then upward bound,
Say, dost thou ever pounce to peep
At those who watch of thy motions keen?
Dost thou ever, poised on thy golden fin,
Contend the crystal drops in which you swim?

Art thou happy now, when of old,
Thy native habitat did thee hold,
Where the sun's first rays thy bosom kissed,
And the whispering trees said "peace and bliss?"

As bending gracefully o'er the wave,
Thy buried thoughts in a watery grave?

Or when pale Luna's love-light glows,
Shed o'er the scene with silvery rays,
Dost thou part the wave with one wild leap
On far-flung Phyllis's face to peep?

Op didst thou plunge for down to rest,
Till morning tipped the mountain's crest?

When warbling songsters their voices raised,
In joyous notes of love and praise—
As sweetly they trilled their morning chime,
Dost thou to their music keep merry time?

Dost thou to the surface to greet their call,
And bid "good morning" to one and all?

Art thou stranger in a foreign land,
Canst thou my queries understand?
If so, with thou tell me, thy own,
Art thou not lonely—all alone—all alone?

Dost thou not pine for kindred near,
To share thy joy and soothe thy fear?

Dost thou ever watch with longing eye
For one of thy mates with love to try?
The wonder of thy present home,
Or art thou content to dwell alone?

Dost thou ever for solitude claim,
To share thy joy and soothe thy fear?

Reign on golden one, in the crystal home,
Thine many a moonbeam on a gilded dome,
Dost thou ever for solitude claim,
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This surprised all the company, and so much effected Mrs. Howe that she fainted away. However, she soon recovered, when it was agreed that Dr. Rose and his wife, with the other gentlemen and ladies who were there at supper, should attend Mrs. Howe the next evening to the Bird-cage Walk. They had not been there more than five or six minutes, when Mr. Howe came to them; and, after saluting his friends and embracing his wife, walked home with her, and they lived together in great harmony from that time to the day of his death.

But the most curious part of my tale remains to be related. London is the only place in all Europe where a man can find a secure retreat or refuge, if he pleases, many years unknown. If he pays constantly for his lodging, for his provisions, and for whatever else he wants, nobody will ask a question concerning him, or inquire where he comes from, or whether he comes from London, or whether he lives in a house in Jernyn street, near St. James's Church. He went no further than to a little street in Westminster, where he took a little room, for which he paid five or six shillings a week; until changing his name, and disguising himself by wearing a black wig (for he was a fair man,) he remained in this habitation during the whole time of his absence. He had two children by his wife when he separated from her, who were both living at the time, but they both died young, in a few years after. However, during their lives, the second or third year after their father disappeared, Mrs. Howe was obliged to apply for an act of Parliament to procure a proper settlement of her husband's estate, and a provision for herself out of it during his absence, as it is uncertain whether he was alive or dead. This act he had to be satisfied and passed, and enjoyed the pleasure of realizing the progress of it in the votes, in a little coffee house near his lodging, which he frequented.

Upon his quitting his house and family in the manner I have mentioned, Mrs. Howe at first imagined, as she could not conceive any other cause for such an abandonment, that he had contracted a large debt unknown to her, and by that which he could not easily surmount; and for some days she lived in continual apprehension of demands from creditors, seizures and executions. But nothing of this kind happened; on the contrary, he did not only leave his estate quite free and unencumbered, but he paid the bills of every tradesman with whom he had any dealings; and upon examining his papers in due time after he was gone, proper receipts and discharges were found in all persons, whether tradesmen or others, with whom he had any manner of transactions, or money concerns. Mrs. Howe, after the death of her children, thought proper to lessen her family of servants and the expenses of her house, keeping, and therefore removed from her house in Jernyn street, near Golden Square, just over against her lived one Salt, a conchandler.

About ten years after his disappearance, Mrs. Howe contrived to make acquaintance with Dr. Rose, and acquired such a degree of intimacy with him that he usually dined with Salt once or twice a week. From the room in which they ate, it was not difficult to look into Mrs. Howe's dining room, where she generally sat and received her company; and Salt—who believed Howe to be a bachelor—frequently recommended his own wife to him as a suitable companion. During the last seven years of Mrs. Howe's absence, he went every Sunday to St. James's Church, and used to sit in Mr. Salt's seat, where he had a view of his wife, but could not be easily seen by her.

After he returned home he never would confess, even to his most intimate friends, what was the real cause of such singular conduct. Apparently there was none; but whatever it was, he was certainly ashamed to own it. Dr. Rose has often said to me that he had returned to his wife if the money he took with him, which was supposed to have been one or two thousand pounds, had not been all spent; and he must have been a good economist, and frugal in his manner of living, otherwise his money would have been long held out; for I imagine he had his full fortune by him—I mean what he carried away with him—in money or bank bills, and daily took out of his bag, like the Spaniard, the *Gil Blas*, what was sufficient for his expenses. Yet, I have seen him, after his return, addressing his wife in the language of a bridegroom. And I have been assured by some of his most intimate friends that he treated her, during the rest of their lives, with the greatest kindness and affection.

Dr. King adds in a note, that he was well acquainted with Dr. Rose, and also with Salt, that he often met them at King's Church House, near Golden Square—Dr. King was an active Jacobite, and Rose was of French connections; and that they frequently entertained him and his wife, and many other particulars which had escaped his memory.

A LEGAL ANECDOTE.—The following anecdote used to be related by the Hon. Jeremiah Mason, of New Hampshire, and it is said to have occurred at Portland.

There is a well known custom prevailing in our criminal courts, assigning counsel to such prisoners as have no one to defend them. On one occasion, the court finding a man accused of theft, and without counsel, said to a wag of a lawyer, who was present, "Mr., please withdraw with the prisoner, confer with him, and give him such counsel as may be best for his interests." The lawyer and client withdrew, and in fifteen minutes the lawyer returned into the court alone. "Where is the prisoner?" asked the court.

"He has gone; your Honor told me to give him the best advice I could for his interest; and, as he said he was guilty, I thought the best counsel I could give him was to 'cut and run,' when he took to one."

The Size of Heads.

With regard to the large head and small head controversy, we must say we have never been able to come to any tangible conclusion. Currier's head must have been large, for his brain weighed sixty-five ounces. This is generally accepted the heaviest known healthy brain; but we were recently told of a working-man who died in University College Hospital, London, and whose head was so large that the students had to weigh it, out of curiosity, when they found it to weigh sixty-seven ounces, though perfectly healthy. On inquiry, all that they could learn about the man was that he was said by his neighbors to have had a remarkably good memory. The brain of Dr. Abercromby, of Edinburgh, weighed sixty-three ounces. Dr. Chalmers had a very large head, indeed Joseph Hume and he were said to have the largest heads in the kingdom; and yet his brain weighed but fifty-three ounces—almost under the average. On the other hand, Byron had a very large one, which is not a very large one, as we go quite over Byron's head, but his brain is said to have weighed nearly four pounds. Keats (for he was a fair man,) he remained in this habitation during the whole time of his absence. He had two children by his wife when he separated from her, who were both living at the time, but they both died young, in a few years after. However, during their lives, the second or third year after their father disappeared, Mrs. Howe was obliged to apply for an act of Parliament to procure a proper settlement of her husband's estate, and a provision for herself out of it during his absence, as it is uncertain whether he was alive or dead. This act he had to be satisfied and passed, and enjoyed the pleasure of realizing the progress of it in the votes, in a little coffee house near his lodging, which he frequented.

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"He has gone; your Honor told me to give him the best advice I could for his interest; and, as he said he was guilty, I thought the best counsel I could give him was to 'cut and run,' when he took to one."

To Fanny Fern.

REVEREND MADAM: If you have a woman's heart beating within your bodice, have mercy on a suffering poetess. A "dish of horrors" (the Bible tells us) is a good thing; but there is no authority which sanctions the rehearsing of it until the original flavor is entirely lost. Since the great success of *Fern Leaves*, nearly all scribble-doms seem to have run mad. That ten thousand dollars have been made within the past year, has doubtless been much comfort to you; but I am afraid it will be the death of some of the rest of us. It has brought out such a host of imitators that the whole country is now swamped with *Fern* and *Leaves*, through which I, for one, have floundered long enough. This must be stopped, else originality will become extinct among us, and the bump of "imitation" will be the only thriving organ upon our carcasses.

Such names too, do now constantly come at us from every printed thing, "Fannies" and "Annies," "Minnies" and "Winnies," with some illiterate sort of bawdy pseudonym fished out of the botanical vocabulary, carefully selected with reference to sound but without the slightest regard to sense. And Fanny there, too, content with the two light radiance borrowed from the central luminary around which they revolve, parody the titles of your articles, parody your stories, your